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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/074,731	02/13/2002	Yvette A. Tramont	CHR 95-14 (CIP) DIV.	7923
36876	7590	12/19/2003	EXAMINER	
MEADWESTVACO CORPORATION				
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CHARLESTON, SC 29423-8005				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1733	

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/074,731

Applicant(s)

TRAMOUNT ET AL.

Examiner

John L. Goff

Art Unit

1733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. Claims 19 and 20 recite the limitation "the reduction in shrinkage is at least" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later

invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glomb et al. (U.S. Patent 5,411,637) in view of Saito et al. (JP 07224262 and see also the abstract and machine translation).

Glomb et al. disclose a method for manufacturing an industrial or decorative laminate. Glomb et al. teach the method comprises impregnating multiple layers of paper with a polymeric resin followed by pressing the layers together under high pressure (e.g. 1200 psi) and high temperature (e.g. 100-280 °F) to cure the resin and form the laminate (Column 1, lines 21-49 and Column 6, lines 46-68 and Column 7, lines 1-4). Glomb et al. further teach it is desirable for the laminates to be dimensionally stable (i.e. resist swelling) to humidity and water (Column 7, lines 62-68). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to subject the laminates taught by Glomb et al. to a subsequent humidity conditioning step to increase the water content of the laminates and thus, the dimensional stability of the laminates to changes in humidity as it was well known in the art to subject cured resin impregnated paper layers to such as treatment for improved resistance to curl and wrinkling as shown for example by Saito et al. As to drying the laminate after humidity conditioning, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to remove/dry any excess water from the surface of the laminate after humidity conditioning and prior to using the laminate as only the expected results would be achieved, i.e. an easier to handle laminate would be produced.

Regarding claims 11-15, 19, and 20, Glomb et al. as modified by Saito et al. are silent as to the particular humidity conditioning parameters (such as air humidity during conditioning, temperature of the air during conditioning, and time the laminate is conditioned). However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to determine/optimize these parameters as a function of the dimensional stability of the laminate (i.e. the resistance to shrinkage, curl, wrinkling, etc.) as doing so would have required nothing more than ordinary skill and routine experimentation.

Saito et al. disclose a method of manufacturing resin impregnated paper having improved dimensional stability, i.e. improved resistance to curl and wrinkling. Saito et al. teach the method comprises impregnating paper with a polymeric resin, curing the resin, and subjecting the cured paper to a humidity conditioning step to increase the water content of the paper such that wrinkling or curling of the final product is suppressed (See the abstract and paragraphs 13 and 14 of the machine translation).

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **John L. Goff** whose telephone number is **703-305-7481** (after December 2003 the telephone number will be 571-272-1216). The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (8 - 5) and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on 703-308-3853. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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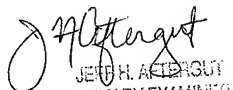
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



John L. Goff
December 10, 2003



JEFF H. AKERHOUT
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1300